

## THE YONKER NEWS.

Negroes at the White House -  
Bruce Grit takes issue with  
Capt. Mebane-Colored People  
Rally Not wanted at White  
House Receptions

Bruce Grit, who is neither venerable nor "redoubtable," renews to Capt. H. A. W. Mebane, the son of a gallant sire, who was his friend, the assurances of his distinguished consideration, and begs to say that there will be no controversy between the captain and himself, "touchin' upon and appertainin' to the recent attendance at a White House reception of a number of eminently respectable and influential brethren.

The wisdom or the unwisdom of that performance is not going to be determined by a controversy in which the controversialists have opinions about it which they have the courage to express.

I do not agree with the captain's optimistic view of the matter, because I am not smart enough, nor old enough to see it in the same light that he sees it. I do not believe what he says he believes, will be the logical outcome of this business. I have merely expressed my opinion as a "venerable" American citizen, at the same time conceding to every other American citizen the right to express his. There is always bound to be more or less diversity of opinion on this subject among colored and white citizens, and this does not necessarily imply that they are either cowardly or unmanly. I have always had the courage of my convictions and I have generally succeeded in saying what I have wanted to say without reference to popular commendation of my utterances. I have done so in this instance, and I understood perfectly what I was saying, and how it would be regarded by those who would take the trouble to read it. What I said on this subject was not said with the purpose of condemning the attendance of colored people at White House receptions—for no amount of criticism or condemnation of the practice could deter our socially inclined colored citizens from attending these receptions when invited to do so. I merely question the wisdom of it at this particular crisis, in view of that fact that the race question is just now more acute than it has ever been before in this country. So that, when I said, quoting St. Paul's words: "All things lawful are not expedient," I was clearly within my rights, as were also those to whom my criticism applied, when they availed themselves of the opportunity to bask in the smiles and grasp the good right hand of the President. As to the ultimate effect of the presence of these dear

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brethren at the White House, there will of course, as my learned, good-looking, youthful and able critic agree, always be differing opinions. I am not so hopeful as he seems to be on this particular point. I don't believe that the barrier is going to be broken down as easily as he says it will be. Diplomas, bank accounts, education and refinement are all of them most commendable especially when they are possessed by Negroes who are one remove from slavery and about three removes from barbarism. Those who are "outside the breastworks," are not brilliant enough to jump into the social swim with the alacrity of the educated sons and daughters of horny-handed slave fathers and mothers. I fear that some of the elect who have pride in their mental and material assets will find before a great while that the "present pace" is a little too swift for good and lasting results. True the White House belongs to the people and the Negroes are part of the people, and they have as much right there as any other people; still I think it is a mistake in the present crisis when there is so much more at stake, than the mere gratification of our desire to shine socially among the big wigs of the nation, for Negroes to add to the bitterness and intensity of race prejudice by accepting these social courtesies merely because they can. If I did not believe I was right in this opinion I wouldn't express it. I have no such faith in white humanity as

Captain Mebane implies he has when he asserts that these brave venturers will ultimately break down the social barriers between the races. I don't believe that any considerable number of us are hankering after the flesh pots of Japheth. To me it seems that the master work of the Negro should be the conservation of his civil and political rights, with these secure he will be able to take care of his social rights both inside and out, of the White House.

The best white man living, whether northerner or southerner, possesses the characteristics of his race. One of its characteristics is the feeling that a white man is a little better than a Negro, and that therefore they cannot be equal socially or otherwise. Then they do not forget to recall to memory that the Negro is a more recent descendant of slaves than themselves, and the fact that a race once subjugated and enslaved cannot be given relative position socially or politically with its enslavers. Perhaps some scholars of the race with a "diploma and bank account," will be able to cite an instance in history in which the contrary is true.

Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of War, in his speech before the Union League Club at its recent anniversary, frankly admitted that the work of the great men of that organization, covering a period of almost forty years, to secure the right of suffrage to the Negro, had been a failure, and he pleaded eloquently for a revival of interest in this work begun by these old-time republicans to make universal freedom and citizenship a fact, because of the pledge given by the nation to the Negroes who gave so much to it in the hour of its peril. To paraphrase Lincoln's famous words, "If the problem can be solved by all the scholars and rich men of the race attending White House receptions, while their rights and the rights of millions are being taken away, then do it. If it is to be solved in some other way, do it." That's all.

BRUCE GRIT.

Yonkers, N. Y., Feb. 7, '03.

## Poems With a Point.

There was a big Indian Sioux,  
Who courted a squaw named Lioux,  
They got worried one daigh  
In the month of Maigh,  
So now they have a papoux.

Said Chlorine Gas to Hydrogen  
"Will you unite with me?"  
Miss Hydrogen made quick reply:  
"I cannot, don't you see?"  
Miss Hydrogen a purpose had  
Her lover hope to thwart 'er,  
But she eloped with Oxygen—  
Her name is Mrs. Water.

There was a young girl in Dubuque  
Whose name was Mary O'Roque;  
She gave up her mash  
After counting the cash  
She wanted to buy her a Douque.

There's beauty to be seen in her form, in her eye  
And there's regal splendor too in her walk;  
She can play, she can sing, she can cry if she try,  
But the wonder of the girl is her talk.

There was a young boy at Duquesne  
Who got caught in a big rakesne  
He frighened his kin  
For he grew weak and thin  
And now they do say he's insaquesne.

He gave her bracelets, necklace, fan  
Some handkerchiefs and rings,  
Because he loved her so you see,  
He sent some other things.  
While all the time she loved a man,  
Whose cognomen was lack;  
"Arms and the man" have coo'ed his love,  
So he wants his presents back.

By W. F. Fowells,  
Goldsboro, N. C.

## A Pointer for Critics.

One of the colored farmers writes  
"I have just killed a 'Conference  
hog," that weighed 590 pounds when  
dressed, and that his wife got 23 gal-  
lons of lard from it. He would like to  
hear of a larger one.—Tuskegee Stu-  
dent.

\$4.00 \*8.00 a day guaranteed  
every person sending name and  
address to the Scott Remed Co.  
Louisville, Ky. Write at once

## The Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers

Is the leading Colored Fraternal Society of the United States. It was organized January, 1881, by William W. Browne, and chartered in April, 1883, under the laws of the State of Virginia, with headquarters at Richmond, Va. Its membership is both male and female, and consists of all persons of good health from 14 to 60 years of age. Its membership of 60,000 is divided into Fountains and Circles. It pays sick benefits from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per week, and pays death benefits from \$24.50 to \$1000.

**BENEFITS PAID**—Total benefits paid to date: Sick dues, \$1,500,000; death benefits, \$714,378.75.

**SENIOR FOUNTAINS**—A Fountain may be organized consisting of 20 or more persons not over 50 years of age paying a joining fee of from \$4.60 to \$5.10 each. The monthly dues are not less than 35 cents in rural districts and not less than 50 cents per month in towns and cities, and a semi-annual tax of 40 cents paid in January and July of each year. Sick benefits paid are from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per week, while death benefits range from \$75 to \$125. A Fountain may be organized in any locality on application to Rev. W. L. Taylor, G. W. Master, or to any of his authorized deputies.

**ROSEBUDS**—For the proper training of the young and their development in thrift, industry and brotherly love, there has been formed a Children's Department known as the Rosebuds. Twenty or more children not less than three nor more than fourteen years of age may form a Rosebud, upon the payment of \$1 each. This department, like the Senior Fountain, pays sick benefits from \$1 to twenty-five cents per week, and death benefits from \$24.50 to \$37. The monthly dues are fifteen cents per month.

**CLASSES**—Persons desiring to leave their beneficiaries at death a larger amount than is paid from Fountain Department, take out policies in one or more of the Classes of the Mutual Benefit Degree. The members of this degree are divided into Circles, and pay joining fees and dues according to the following tables:

Class "B"						Class "E"					
Age	Joining fee	Value of Certificate after one year	Value of Certificate before one year	Annual Dues	Quarterly Dues	Age	Joining fee	Value of Certificate after one year	Value of Certificate before one year	Annual Dues	Quarterly Dues
14 to 25	\$2.50	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$4.75	\$1.20	14 to 25	\$5.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$9.50	\$2.50
25 to 30	2.75	200.00	100.00	4.75	1.20	25 to 30	5.25	500.00	250.00	9.50	2.40
30 to 35	3.00	200.00	100.00	4.75	1.20	30 to 35	5.50	500.00	250.00	9.50	2.40
35 to 40	3.25	200.00	100.00	5.70	1.43	35 to 40	5.75	500.00	250.00	10.40	2.60
40 to 45	3.50	140.00	70.00	5.79	1.43	40 to 45	6.00	450.00	225.00	10.40	2.60
45 to 50	3.75	115.00	58.00	6.65	1.66	45 to 50	6.25	400.00	200.00	11.40	2.88
50 to 55	4.00	70.00	45.00	6.35	1.66	50 to 55	6.50	350.00	175.00	11.40	2.88
55 to 60	4.25	65.00	33.00	7.60	1.90						

Class "M"					REGALIA				
Age	Joining fee	Value of Certificate	Annual dues	Quarterly dues	The members of the Fountains and Rosebuds of the organization wear no expensive regalia. The regalia of the organization is simple and its cost will be in the easy reach of all, costing from 10 cents to \$3. The same is made by the organization in what is known as the Regalia Department.				
14 to 30	\$11.00	\$1000.00	\$21.90	\$5.25					
30 to 35	12.00	1000.00	22.00	5.50					
35 to 40	12.00	905.00	23.00	5.75					
40 to 45	13.00	800.00	24.00	6.00					
45 to 50	13.00	700.00	25.00	6.25					

**THE SAVINGS BANK**—In March, 1888, there was granted by the Legislature of Virginia a charter to the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain United Order of True Reformers, capital stock \$100,000. The bank commenced business April 3, 1889, and from that time down to the present has steadily increased in volume of business. It now has a paid up capital stock of \$100,000. From the humble sum of \$1,268.69, deposited the first day the bank opened for business in 1889 the deposits have grown to \$350,058, and the volume of business transacted amounts to \$6,190,141.47. During the financial panic of 1893, the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain was the only bank in the city of Richmond that did not cease to pay cash on all checks presented, while the majority of other banks were using script and clearing house checks. This bank had its origin in the brain of William W. Browne, an ex-slave of Habersham, Ga. The banking house is located at 604 North Second Street, Richmond, Va., Rev. W. L. Taylor, President; R. T. Hill, Cashier.

**REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT**—The Real Estate Department has charge of all the real property to the amount of \$220,221.65, situated in various States, consisting of 13 magnificent buildings used as halls, 8 dwellings, 1 hotel, 5 stores and three farms. It also has under its control 16 large buildings leased by it. This department is under the management of Lawyer J. C. Robertson, chief of real estate and attorney for the association, office at 608 N. 2nd Street, Richmond, Va.

**REFORMERS MERCANTILE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION**—Was chartered under the laws of the State of Virginia on the 14th day of December, 1899, with principal office in the city of Richmond, Va. The purpose of this association is to conduct stores (wholesale and retail), buy and sell real property, manage and control hotels, manufacturing establishments, and do general business. The association has in operation Hotel Reformer, 900 N. Sixth Street, Richmond, Va. It is a modern up-to-date structure, heated by steam, cold and hot water baths, also electric cars passing the door. This hotel has accommodations for 150 guests. Mr. A. W. Holmes is manager, and Mr. T. W. Taylor is clerk. It has in operation a system of five stores, located as follows: Richmond, Va.; Washington, D. C.; Manchester, Va.; Portsmouth, Va.; and Roanoke, Va. The first of these stores, at Richmond, Va., was opened April 30, 1900. It employs a force of 18 men, runs three delivery wagons, and during the first year did \$50,000 worth of business. The other stores have been established since, and have been equally prosperous. The general manager of the system of stores is Mr. B. L. Jordan, headquarters at 608 N. Second Street, Richmond, Va. This Association was formed on the plans and recommendations made by Rev. W. L. Taylor, its president.

**THE REFORMER PRINTING DEPARTMENT**—Issues a weekly journal, THE REFORMER, which has a circulation of 12,000. This paper is published in the interest of the race, and discusses the leading questions of the day. The subscription price is \$1 per year, or 5c. per single copy. The office is equipped with modern up-to-date machinery, run by electricity. It can print anything from a visiting card to a poster 42 by 62 inches. Fine job work of every class and description is made a specialty at lowest prices. Mr. E. W. Brown is editor and business manager, office 608 N. Second Street, Richmond, Va. Correspondence solicited and agents wanted.

**OLD FOLKS' HOME**—In September, 1893, Rev. William W. Brown recommended the formation and establishment of Old Folks' Homes for the benefit of old and decrepit members of the race. Since that time the valuable farm known as Westham, consisting of 6344 acres, located six miles from Richmond, Va., on the historic "James," has been purchased, at a cost of \$14,490. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad runs through the farm, and Westham Station is located on it. Adjoining this farm is Westhampton Park, one of the most pleasant resorts in the South in summer. It is reached in a few minutes from Richmond by the Westhampton Electric Railway, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. As this home is for the benefit of the whole race, the co-operation of all charitable friends is prayerfully solicited. All contributions, donations and requests of every character will be very thankfully received. Mr. T. W. Taylor is chief in charge of the Old Folks' Home, offices at 608 North Second Street, Richmond, Va.

For further information address—  
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604-6-8 N. Second Street, Richmond, Va.